

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201635
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02
STR-07 TRSE-00 FRB-01 OMB-01 AGR-01 H-02 ICA-20
AID-05 NSC-05 SS-15 CEA-01 CTME-00 /138 R

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ARA/ECP:ACOOLEY (INFO)
EA/ANP:CTWINING (INFO)
EUR/CAN:GMONROE (INFO)

-----021852 100328Z /61

P R 092142Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELIZE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 201635

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MEAT IMPORT LEGISLATION
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PAGE 02 STATE 201635

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REF: STATE 196836 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. VANIK SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE OF HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE HELD MARK-UP SESSION AUGUST 8 ON PROPOSED
COUNTER-CYCLICAL LEGISLATION TO AMEND MEAT IMPORT ACT.
SUBCOMMITTEE TOOK UP POAGE BILL, WHICH SIMILIAR TO SENATE

PASSED BENTSEN BILL, AND MADE FOLLOWING CHANGES:

A) THOUGH PROVISIONS EXTENDING IMPORT LIMITATION TO PREPARED AND PRESERVED BEEF AS WELL AS LIVE CATTLE WERE ELIMINATED, BILL AMENDED TO INCLUDE THOSE ITEMS NOW COVERED BY CURRENT LEGISLATION (TSUS 106.10 AND 106.20) IN ADDITION TO TSUS ITEM 107.60 (BEEF PREPARED, WHETHER FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN, BUT NOT OTHERWISE PRESERVED). THUS ALL FRESH, CHILLED AND FROZEN BEEF AND VEAL PRODUCTS WOULD BE COVERED.

B) COUNTER-CYCLICAL FORMULA CONTAINED IN POAGE BILL ELIMINATED AND REPLACED WITH MORE LIBERAL FORMULA.

AT CHAIRMAN VANIK'S INSISTENCE, HOWEVER, YEARLY IMPORTS WOULD NEVER FALL BELOW 1.2 BILLION POUNDS, THE LEVEL AT WHICH, UNDER THE FORMULA, IMPORTS WOULD BE RESTRICTED IN 1985 AND 1986, PROJECTED TO BE YEARS OF HIGH DOMESTIC PRODUCTION.

C) PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE LIMITED THE LEVEL OF IMPORTS PER QUARTER AND REGULATED THE FLOW OF THESE IMPORTS THROUGH U.S. PORTS WERE ELIMINATED.

D) POAGE BILL, WHICH WOULD HAVE ELIMINATED PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND QUOTAS, AMENDED BY INSERTION OF FORMULA ALLOWING PRESIDENT TO INCREASE OR DECREASE IMPORTS BY 10 PERCENT WHEN RATIO OF FARM PRICE OF CATTLE INDEX OVER BEEF AND VEAL PRICE INDEX MOVED BEYOND CERTAIN LIMITS. OBJECT OF SUCH A MECHANISM WOULD BE TO RAISE OR LOWER CATTLE PRICES BY INCREASING OR DECREASING IMPORTS.
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PAGE 03 STATE 201635

2. AMENDED BILL NOW GOES BEFORE FULL WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE. WHEN COMMITTEE TO TAKE UP BILL REMAINS IN QUESTION.

3. TO DATE, THERE IS NO FORMAL ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON THE AMENDED POAGE BILL. WHEN A POSITION IS DEVELOPED, IT WILL BE COMMUNICATED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE201635
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JLEDESMA:JMT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780326-1278
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780881/aaaacprg.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ddd5ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 196836
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1788275
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF MEAT IMPORT LEGISLATION UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: EPAP, ETRD
To: CANBERRA BELIZE MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ddd5ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014